Range extension of the Red-fan Parrot Deroptyus accipitrinus in Amazonian Brazil

by Leo Joseph

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On 9 February 1986, at c. 1 km from the settlement of Jaçiparaná at the crossing of the Rio Jaçiparaná, a right-bank tributary of the Rio Madeira, c. 60 km SW of Porto Vêlho, Rondônia, Brazil, (Figs. 1, 2) I watched 3 *Deroptyus accipitrinus* for one hour. The locality is c. 720 km NW of Juruena and c. 200 km SW of the confluence of the Rio Jiparaná and Rio Madeira.

Distinctive features were the short black primaries, green wings, rump and tail, the latter seeming to have a dark terminal band; purple and blue underparts and hindneck; head ground colour brown, heavily streaked pale cream, especially on the crown; frons and lores blackish, iris creamy. In size they were about that of an *Amazona* parrot but noticeably less stocky. No other parrot with conspicuously purple and blue underparts is known to occur in Amazonian Brazil, while the green upperparts, pale iris and raised nuchal ruff seen momentarily in one individual once, further render the identification secure. Indeed the crown being heavily streaked with pale cream is indicative of the subspecies *D. a. fuscifrons*, which occurs south of the Amazon (Forshaw 1977). At the time, I did not consider the sighting exceptional and so made no further notes.

The habitat in the immediate area was flooded forest. Nearby areas could be described as disturbed terra firma rainforest with scattered areas of land being used for agriculture. The birds were feeding in an unidentified tree growing in the waters of the Rio Jaçiparaná, stripping the outer, dark covering of the leaf petioles. Evidently, they were eating this dark covering because only the inner, light-coloured parts of the petioles were

seen falling to the river below.

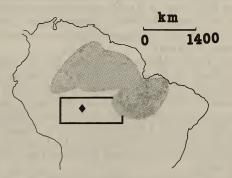


Figure 1. Map of northern South America showing the distribution of *D. accipitrinus* based on Forshaw (1977). The locality of the sighting reported here is indicated thus ◆. The boxed region is shown in more detail in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Map of central and western Amazonian Brazil south of the Amazon showing geographical features mentioned in the text. Rivers are indicated by unbroken lines, State borders in Brazil are indicated by $-\cdot--$ and international frontiers by $-\cdot--\cdot-$. The locality of the record discussed here is indicated by a star.

Pinto (1978) noted that, south of the Amazon, *D. accipitrinus* occurs south and east of the lower Rio Madeira. Meyer de Schauensee (1966), Ridgely (1981) and Sick (1984) were more restrictive, stating or implying that, south of the Amazon, *D. accipitrinus* occurs west only as far as the Rio Tapajós, and south into the upper drainages of the Tapajós and Xingu in northernmost Mato Grosso. They therefore excluded the lower Madeira from the range. Forshaw's (1977) review essentially follows the latter 3 authors. *D. accipitrinus* is at present unrecorded from anywhere in Acre or the upper Rio Juruá or Rio Purús regions of western, Amazonian Brazil or from southeastern Perú (Gyldenstolpe 1945, 1951 per J. Remsen, Parker *et al.* 1982). The species is also unrecorded from Bolivia (Remsen & Traylor, in press).

Two specimens in the Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro (MN4071, 4072), are from Passo do Susto, Juruena ("Juruema" on the labels), western Mato Grosso (D. M. Teixeira). Field parties from the Field Museum of Natural History found D. accipitrinus to be common along the Rio Jiparaná in Rondônia in 1986 in June and September, October, November and have lodged 3 specimens in the Museu de Zoologia da Universidade de São Paulo (S. M. Lanyon, D. F. Stotz). These 5 specimens are from the most southwestern localities that I have been able to find for D. accipitrinus.

The present record, from the middle Rio Madeira region, is a southern and western range extension from, respectively, the lower Madeira and northern Mato Grosso, the distances involved being 500–700 km, the

first record of the species from the State of Rondônia and only c. 100 km from Bolivia, opening up the possibility that *D. accipitrinus* occurs in the northern, Amazonian parts of that country.

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Notes on the status and ecology of the Ogea Flycatcher *Mayrornis versicolor*

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The sole collection of the Ogea Flycatcher *Mayrornis versicolor* was made by the Whitney South Sea Expedition during its visit to Ogea in Fiji's southern Lau Group (19°10'S, 178°25'W), 26 Jul–4 Aug 1924. It was

subsequently described by Mayr (1933).

Since that visit there have been no reports of any ornithologist visiting Ogea and the absence of any contemporary knowledge of this flycatcher's status was giving rise for concern. In addition, Ogea has suffered damage from 4 tropical cyclones in recent years (1973, 1975, 1979, 1985), but perhaps most disturbing has been the possibility of exploitation of Ogea's proven phosphate resources (Ministry of Lands, Energy & Mineral Resources, Fiji Government). Of considerable further interest was the overall status of the Ogea Flycatcher in view of its suspected